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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

‘Unlike anything I’ve ever seen’

Days after winning gold, Roberto Luongo is still marvelling over Team Canada’s dominant performance in Sochi PAGE 20

Imagine there’s no BuzzFeed, it’s easy if you try

Oo-bla-di or beep beep yeah? Our columnist reveals all PAGE 12

Popular ESL program at risk

Vancouver Community College will have to cut some adult classes without extra provincial funding, says school official PAGE 3

TRUDEAU EATS CROW OVER UKRAINE JOKE

LIBERAL LEADER GOES ALL-OUT TO MAKE AMENDS WITH UKRAINIANS AS RIVALS HEAP ON THE SCORN AFTER GAFFE PAGE 6

Teachers’ union calls for strike vote

Labour. BCTF president accuses Liberals of ‘trying once again to provoke teachers behind closed doors’

B.C. Teachers’ Federation president Jim Iker announces that the union will hold a strike vote, during a press conference in Vancouver Tuesday.
MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Teachers will hold a strike vote next week as their volatile relationship with government continues to fall apart.

B.C. Teachers’ Federation president Jim Iker announced the vote, which will take place March 4 to 6, on Tuesday after revealing the two sides are being driven even further apart after a year of bargaining and a B.C. Supreme Court judge’s ruling that the government violated teachers’ rights and attempted to provoke a strike.

“We cannot sit back and let Christy Clark and her government talk about labour peace in public while trying once again to provoke teachers behind closed doors,” Iker said. “Our only recourse in response to the unfair, unreasonable proposals at this point in time is to apply pressure through a strike vote.”

Iker claims the government has tried to push teachers into a 10-year deal with zero-point wage increases in the first four to five years and significant concession demands, and it is once again unconstitutionally trying to strip teachers of the right to negotiate class size and composition.

Education Minister Peter Fassbender and B.C. Public School Employers’ Association chief negotiator Peter Cameron are irked the union has gone public.

Cameron said the details leaked by the union — even though both parties agreed not to negotiate in public — are from the government’s opening position.

All of the proposals, including class size and composition, are on the table and negotiable but the BCTF has yet to counter them in talks, he said.

“We’re disappointed and a little bit surprised. They broke protocol and provided details (in public),” said Cameron. “Where is their opening position anyway?”

Last month, the government was ordered by B.C. Supreme Court Justice Susan Griffin to pay the union $2 million in damages for stripping teachers of collective-bargaining rights in 2012 legislation.

Griffin also found the government failed to negotiate in good faith with the BCTF in the last round of bargaining by deliberately trying to provoke a full-scale strike.

The judge said instigating a teachers’ strike would have given the government a “political advantage” to pass further legislation to deal with the strike and teacher bargaining.

The government is appealing the decision.

“Quite honestly, we didn’t provoke anything. I want the public to know this was not our choice — we wanted to continue bargaining and we still will,” Fassbender said of Tuesday’s announcement.

Education critic Rob Fleming isn’t so sure the government’s hands are clean.

“I have a hard time believing the education minister on this when (on Monday) he said negotiations were cordial,” the NDP MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake said. “They have a lot to prove ... but it seems that the B.C. Liberals are digging a deeper hole and doing anything to provoke disruptions.”

The results of the vote will be announced on the evening of March 6.

Meanwhile, Iker said the BCTF will remain at the bargaining table.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lucia Vega Jimenez

Inquest called into suicide in custody of Border Services

A coroner's jury will examine what happened when a Mexican woman died after hanging herself while in custody of border agents at Vancouver's airport, the B.C. Coroners Service announced Tuesday.

Lucia Vega Jimenez, 42, was found in a shower stall in a holding cell at the airport on Dec. 20. She died in hospital on Dec. 28.

Jimenez's suicide raised questions about how the Canada Border Services Agency handled the woman's case, and several advocacy groups have called for an independent investigation, ranging from a coroner's inquest to a full-scale public inquiry.

Coroners service spokeswoman Barb McLintock said the agency decided to hold an inquest in large part because the incident that led to Jimenez's death occurred while she was in custody.

"In those cases, the chances are very high that we will, for the sake of transparency, hold an inquest," McLintock said in an interview.

"She was not free to go, so we have an extra responsibility to take care of her."

A coroner's jury is scheduled to hear evidence beginning Sept. 29. The jurors will then make recommendations to prevent similar deaths but, under the rules that govern the coroner's office, they cannot make findings of fault or legal blame. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is it possible for a city to live in true harmony with nature?

An artist's rendering from the Rewilding Vancouver exhibit on display at the Museum of Vancouver from Feb. 27 to Sept. 1. The display is based off of J.B. MacKinnon's book The Once and Future World, in which he studied Vancouver's natural origins and how humans have impacted the world. "There used to be fishing at Burrard and Cambie," MacKinnon said. "There was a stream that went through there, and there's many reports of people fishing into the stream, catching fish for dinner." Story and photos at metronews.ca/vancouver. COURTESY DANIEL IRVINE AND MATT BEALL/MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER

VCC's ESL program threatened by cuts

English as a Second Language. College says education is critical for immigrants to find jobs

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

ESL courses are so full at Vancouver Community College that people lined up at 3 a.m. in January for a chance at a seat.

Despite the popularity of the college's packed ESL program — the largest in Western Canada with 3,000 students each term — VCC will have to cancel some classes if it can't get additional government funding, said Karen Shortt, president of VCC's faculty association, on Tuesday.

For the past decade, the college received $8 million from the government to run the program for new immigrants — it hasn't been allowed to charge tuition since 2012 — but this year it will only get $4.67 million due to federal cuts.

Spend money, make money

"There's no doubt people need this training to get on with their lives and come back as taxpayers."

Karen Shortt, president of VCC's faculty association

Shortt believes the province should fund the shortfall because adult education is a provincial mandate and English helps new immigrants find jobs in a province with a shortage of skilled workers.

"The province needs to step up and fund this so jobs can be filled," Shortt said.

The federal government used to funnel money for ESL through the province's Ministry of Advanced Education, which then gave the money to colleges. But as of April 1, the feds will instead distribute the money to community organizations of its choosing.

To help with the transition, the province has distributed $10.5 million to organizations, including VCC.

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Cops fear more victims. Long-time piano teacher charged with sex assault

A Vancouver piano teacher who gave private lessons from his home for more than 30 years has been charged with sexual assault.

Police arrested Yung Ping David Chen, 65, in Dec. 2013 in response to allegations of sexual assault and sexual interference from an unspecified number of victims, Const. Brian Montague said in a statement Tuesday.

Chen has been released from custody on condition he have no contact with anyone younger than 18.

The victims' identities are protected by a publication ban, so details surrounding the allegations are limited, Montague said.

But police are worried there are more victims.

Former students or parents of former students are asked to contact police at 604-717-0602 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-222-8477.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

$16M shortfall? VSB chair says provincial budget will hurt classrooms

While B.C. Liberals are touting the recently announced provincial budget plan as the best thing for the province, the Vancouver School Board chair says the effects are going to be felt in the classroom.

Chair Patti Bacchus says new costs associated with hikes to MSP premiums, hydro rates and increased staff wages coupled with no increase in funding from the province is a bad mix.

"At this point we're already anticipating a $16-million shortfall," Bacchus said. "This is about the kids. We're trying to keep costs down but we feel like we've already taken away everything we can do without."

Bacchus says public education should be looked at as an investment and not an expense.

"Students are the best investment we can make," she said. "They're the future."

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

Anti-bullying

Pink Shirt Day marks 7th year

It was seven years ago when two teenagers from Nova Scotia wore pink in solidarity with a boy who was bullied for simply wearing a pink shirt at their school.

Since then it's spawned a movement across North America, uniting people to once and for all put an end to bullying.

Wednesday, Feb. 26 is Pink Shirt Day. Wearing pink shows your support for the cause and says you're a safe beacon for someone in need.

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

A call by Vancouver to limit campaign spending in upcoming municipal elections won't be implemented in time for this November's election. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

Municipal election cost limits to kick in 2018

Some changes coming sooner. Legislation marks most significant change to municipal election rules in 20 years

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The province will reform municipal elections before voters hit the ballots in November 2014, but Vancouver will only get a few of the changes on its wish list.

Municipal elections will be held every four years instead of every three if proposed legislation passes this spring, Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Coralee Oakes announced in a statement Tuesday.

Both urban and rural municipalities agreed that longer terms would make it easier for politicians to consult, plan and achieve goals at the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) conference last year.

Plus, it's cheaper to hold elections less frequently, according to the statement, and every other province has four-year terms.

But campaign expense limits won't be set in time for the 2014 election, presenting a problem for Vancouver, where spending and donations have skyrocketed over the past decade. In the 2011 election, political parties spent more than $5 million, including a single donation of $960,000 to the NPA.

The province says it fully intends to put expense limits in place for 2018 but felt it wouldn't be appropriate to add expense limits to the mix of reforms already slated for the election year.

But since Vancouver is an anomaly, city council believes it should be granted permission to start the process of setting its own limits, Coun. Andrea Reimer said Tuesday.

"We understand it's not a province-wide issue, but it's definitely an issue in Vancouver," she said, noting council has requested such reforms for a decade.

"If I had to choose, I would choose campaign finance reform as the most urgent reform."

Vancouver has support from both the public and the UBCM to cap spending.

Despite the province's announcement, Reimer remains hopeful Vancouver will get the chance to proceed with its own expense limits.

"The fact the bill exists before the election tells me there's a possibility."

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Haida corporation was misled on ocean fertilization: Docs

An American businessman involved in a controversial ocean fertilization experiment off the B.C. coast misled his Canadian partners about his credentials and is essentially holding the scientific experiment hostage, the man's estranged partners allege in court documents.

Russ George launched a civil lawsuit last month against the Haida Salmon Restoration Corp. and others involved in the controversial experiment, which saw 100 metric tonnes of iron dust dumped into the Pacific in July 2012 in the belief it would feed salmon and capture carbon.

George's suit claimed he was wrongly "frozen out" of the venture and subjected to "false, defamatory and malicious" accusations by his former partners.

But the corporation filed a response this week in B.C. Supreme Court, alleging George made false and misleading claims to persuade the company to proceed with the experiment. The document said George contributed little and did not have the expertise he claimed.

"During the ocean voyage and ship preparations, Mr. George exhibited a tendency to behave in a manner that was irrational, unprofessional and offensive to others and engaged in certain inappropriate conduct including a physical assault upon the project leader, which resulted in the early termination of the voyage," the document alleges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto. Ford opens up to American TV host, shuts down local journalists

The mayor of Toronto was happy to discuss drinking and drugs with the host of a U.S. morning show on Tuesday but bristled when asked questions on the same issues by journalists in his own city.

"I don't use illegal drugs. I experimented with them, like probably a year ago, but I don't use drugs," Rob Ford told Today show host Matt Lauer. "Things are going fantastic, Matt."

Ford took a combative stance when asked by Toronto reporters to clarify his comments.

Not quite perfect

"Maybe you're perfect, but I'm not. We're moving on in a positive direction."

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, to Matt Lauer.

"Don't be jealous if I do an interview with an American station," he told journalists while leaving a news conference where he refused to answer questions on drug use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Misuse of public funds?

N.L. to spend $60K to clean up image of seal industry

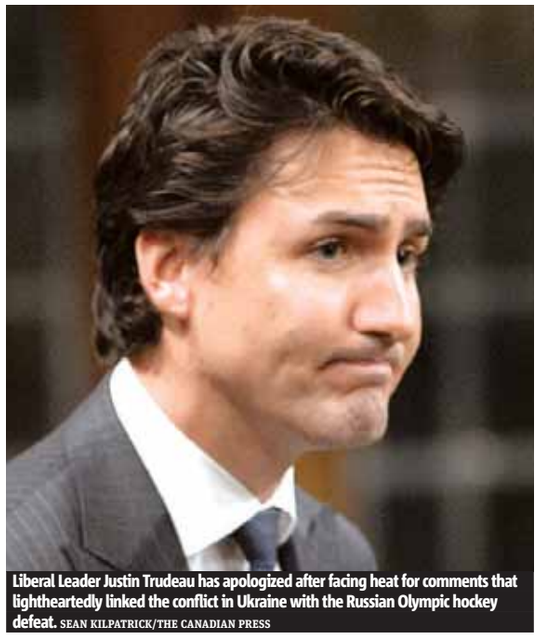
Newfoundland and Labrador is funding an awareness campaign aimed at seal industry "misconceptions" ahead of a World Trade Organization appeal.

Fisheries Minister Keith Hutchings said Tuesday the province will give $60,000 to the Seals and Sealing Network, an industry group that's leading the campaign.

Animal-rights groups say this is a misuse of public funds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau says he's sorry for joke about Ukraine



Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau has apologized after facing heat for comments that lightheartedly linked the conflict in Ukraine with the Russian Olympic hockey defeat. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No laughing matter. Liberal leader apologizes for remark about Russian invasion as opponents look to capitalize on the gaffe

Justin Trudeau was back on Parliament Hill Tuesday to face the music for his joke about Ukraine, as the Conservatives and NDP pondered once again how to make the Liberal leader's latest gaffe stick.

Trudeau told the media he waited until Tuesday to apologize because he "wanted to make sure that I had the chance to express directly to leaders in the Ukrainian community … how seriously the Liberal party takes the situation in Ukraine."

He added that his joke during a pre-taped appearance on a Radio-Canada current affairs program "made light of some very real fears and concerns that Ukrainians have about Russian intervention."

Trudeau apologized earlier in the day to the Ukrainian ambassador to Canada after making a quick visit to the embassy. Vadym Prystaiko, who had called for the apology a day earlier, praised Trudeau for being the first Canadian politician to sign a book of condolences.

Trudeau also tweeted that he'd made amends with Paul Grod, head of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

In an interview Thursday, Trudeau said Russia, peeved about being eliminated from the medal round in Olympic hockey, might vent its spleen by getting involved in Ukraine.

In the aftermath of Trudeau's comments, both the Conservatives and NDP pounced in an effort to inflict some damage. Trudeau is consistently ahead in public-opinion polls and wrapped up a successful policy convention in Montreal over the weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Date: **Thursday, February 27, 2014**
Time: 4:30pm - 7:30pm (drop-in)
Place: Burquest Jewish Community Centre
2860 Dewdney Trunk Road, Coquitlam

Date: **Saturday, March 1, 2014**
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm (drop-In)
Place: Centennial Pavilion, Centennial Room
620 Poirier Street, Coquitlam
(Beside Dogwood Pavilion, entrance off Winslow Avenue)

If you cannot attend the open house in person, please visit our website, **www.renewingriverview.com**, where you can participate in our online open house starting **February 28, 2014**.

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Uganda. Newspaper publishes list of the country's '200 top' gays

A Ugandan newspaper published a list Tuesday of what it called the country's "200 top" gays, outing some Ugandans and raising fears of violence against those named just a day after the president enacted a severe anti-gay law.

Many on the list "are scared and they need help," said Pepe Julian Onziema, a prominent Ugandan gay activist who was named in the Red Pepper tabloid. "Some want to leave the country and they are asking to be helped."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday's signing of the bill by President Yoweri Museveni marked "a tragic day for Uganda and for all who care about the cause of human rights." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Ugandan reads a copy of the Red Pepper tabloid newspaper in Kampala, Uganda on Tuesday. STEPHEN WANDERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai woman raises fists against government in protest

An anti-government protester raises her clenched fists as she listens to a speech by anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban in Bangkok, Thailand on Tuesday. The protesters, mostly representing the urban elite and those in the south, are pressing for the resignation of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tensions soar in Crimea against Kyiv 'bandits'

'Russia, save us!'

Protesters in Crimea aren't ready for a change in Ukraine's government

Dozens of pro-Russian protesters rallied Tuesday in the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea against "the bandits" in Kyiv who are trying to form a new government — with some even speaking of secession. A lawmaker from Russia stoked their passions further by promising them that Russia will protect them.

As a Russian flag flew Tuesday in front of the city council building in Sevastopol — a key Crimean port where Russia's Black Sea Fleet is based — an armoured Russian personnel carrier and two trucks full of troops made a rare appearance on the streets of the city.

Protesters had torn down the Ukrainian flag a day ago, pleading with Moscow to protect them from the new authorities in Ukraine who have forced President Viktor Yanukovych to flee Kyiv, the capital, and go into hiding.

"Bandits have come to power," said Vyacheslav Tokarev, a 39-year-old construction worker in Sevastopol. "I'm ready to take arms to fight the fascists who have seized power in Kyiv."

Yanukovych's whereabouts are unknown but he was last reportedly seen in Crimea. Law enforcement agencies have issued an arrest warrant for Yanukovych over the killing of 82 people, mainly protesters, last week in the bloodiest violence in Ukraine's post-Soviet history.

Chanting "Russia, save us!" the protesters gathered for a third day before administrative buildings in Sevastopol and in other Crimean cities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bitcoin traders brought to knees

Tokyo. Following news of Mt. Gox vanishing, the cybercurrency fell below $500 US, from a high of $1,200 US

Bitcoin trader Kolin Burgess, right, of London, and American Aaron (only his first name was given) hold protest signs as they conduct a sit-in in front of the office tower housing Mt. Gox in Tokyo on Tuesday. KAORI HITOMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One of the world's largest bitcoin exchanges has seemingly disappeared, delivering a severe blow to the virtual currency as it struggles to gain legitimacy.

A coalition of virtual-currency companies said Tuesday that Tokyo-based Mt. Gox went under after secretly racking up catastrophic losses.

Mt. Gox's website was returning a blank page Tuesday. The disappearance of the site follows the resignation Sunday of Mt. Gox CEO Mark Karpeles from the board of the Bitcoin Foundation, a group seeking legitimacy for the exotic new form of money. The exchange had imposed a ban on withdrawals earlier this month.

Prominent supporters of bitcoin — including San Francisco-based wallet service Coinbase and Chinese exchange BTC China — sought to shore up confidence in the currency by saying Mt. Gox's collapse was an isolated case of mismanagement. They said it had abused users' trust but did not offer details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bzzz. Uncle Sam spending $3M to feed honeybees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will spend millions of dollars to help farmers and ranchers improve pastures in five Midwestern states to provide food for struggling honeybees under a program to be announced Tuesday.

Commercial honeybees pollinate an estimated $15 billion US worth of produce each year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new U.S. program aims to ensure honeybees have enough pollen and nectar to snack on. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.20¢ (-0.16¢)

TSX 14,188.98 (-38.10)

OIL $101.83 US (-$0.99)

GOLD $1,342.70 US (+$4.70)

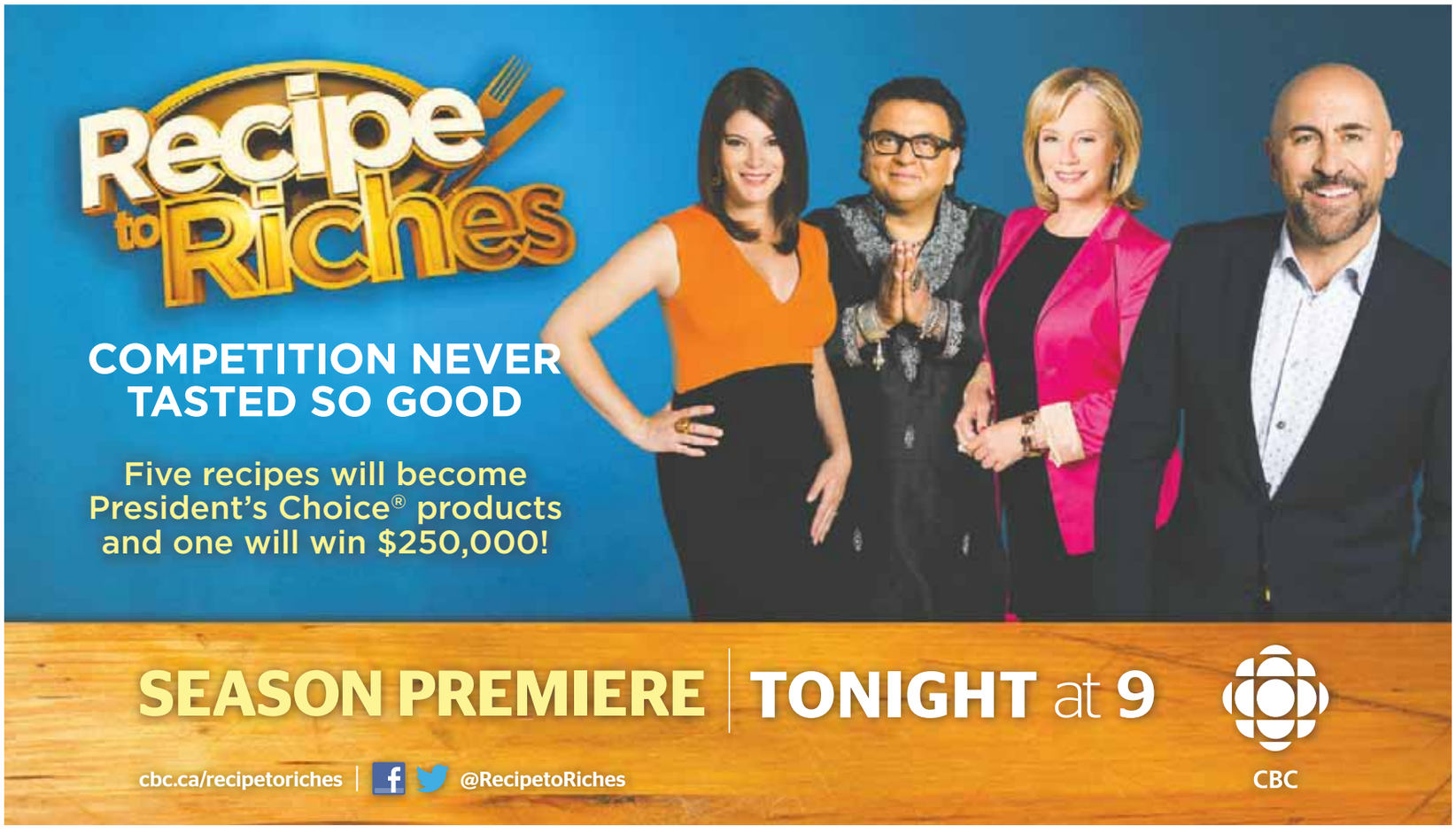
Natural gas: $4.67 US (-$0.05)
Dow Jones: 16,179.66 (-27.48)

Adding 800 stores

Timmies brews up plan to slam rivals

Tim Hortons Inc. is planning a flurry of changes to its operations, including healthier food choices and the addition of 800 new stores over the next several years as it looks to maintain its edge in an increasingly competitive market. Tim's CEO says "the plan is aggressive but very achievable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS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LET IT BE OR MAKE IT BETTER?

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Thanks to sites like BuzzFeed, this is the Golden Age of Wasting Time.

And one of the best ways to waste time, wherever you are, whatever you're supposed to be doing, is the Identity Quiz.

You know? If you were a sandwich, what kind of sandwich would you be? Turns out I'm a ham sandwich, but you knew that.

As you launch your identity quest, be warned there are millions of these things. There are even millions of What Kind of Sandwich Am I? quizzes.

So we need a hook, and what better than this: It is the 50th anniversary of the English Invasion this month, starting with the night the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan show and launched a rock revolution.

Of course, to celebrate the Fab Four moment, there's a quiz on BuzzFeed which allows you to find out which Beatle you are: the Popular (if a little square) Paul, the Genius John, the Spiritual George, and the Affable (if a little goofy) Ringo.

Like all great time wasters, the quiz is fun to do. You start by choosing your favourite psychedelic pattern, and go from there.

The quiz wants to know if you'd rather sing "oo-bla-di-bla-da" or "beep beep yeah!"

It wants to know if you think you should take a sad song and make it better. Or let it be.

The quiz asks you to choose your fave from a gallery of foxy '60s ladies (the Beatles and the boys of BuzzFeed are pre-feminist, apparently).

Finally it asks how you're feeling about love right now: All you need is love? Or can't buy me love?

By now you've figured out that this quiz (except for the foxy ladies) is based on Beatles' lyrics.

So it helps, if like me, you've spent a lifetime trying to get Yellow Submarine out of your head.

But as the Beatles have sold more records, had more No. 1 hits, and have been covered by more artists than any group in history, it's a safe bet you know John, Paul, George and Ringo maybe better than you know yourself.

So now that you've rushed to BuzzFeed to take the quiz, welcome back. Who are you?

If you're me, you're a late-'60s version of John Lennon, which is not what I expected but it's better than being an '80s version of John Lennon.

And I'm kinda relieved I'm not Ringo. Although you'd have to argue that Ringo is certainly the luckiest Beatle. If he hadn't met John or Paul, he'd be driving a bus in Liverpool, like his dad.

And taking the quiz to find out what Beatle he would be: John, Paul, George, or ... Pete?

ZOOM

Still cute with ears cut

SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Puppy love at former bin Laden base

Sgt. Kevin Ingram from Wheeling, West Virginia with the U.S. Army's 4th squadron 2d Cavalry Regiment comforts a puppy that had its ears cut off while visiting an Afghan National Police (ANP) outpost that was once home to Osama bin Laden during a patrol on Tuesday near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Ears are often removed from puppies to prepare them to become fighting dogs.

Ingram's squadron is responsible for defending Kandahar Airfield against rocket attacks from insurgents. GETTY IMAGES

Also in Afghanistan

- A few years ago, an abandoned puppy was befriended by Navy reservist Mark Feffer, who wanted to adopt her. At the end of his tour he discovered she was lost, but a rescue mission reunited them.
- A British marine found a dog in 2010 with his ears and tail cut off. Once he told his sister the dog would be shot once he left Afghanistan, she set up a campaign to bring the dog to Britain.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Leaving your fate in the hands or the stars — or the astrologers who read the stars — might help you deal with your high school crush, but for real-world relationship woes, financial burdens or career concerns, you're going to need something a little more scientific. And what could be more solid than fortune teller, tarot card and magic eight ball apps.

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Twitter

@metropicks asked: Actor/writer/director Harold Ramis has died. What's your favourite Harold Ramis work?

@thechipfactor: "what happened to your Sargent? He got blowed up sir!" Best quote from any Harold Ramis film. He will be missed.

@DerchanskyLegal: definitely remember his work on #SCTV, but can't ignore his brilliance in #Caddyshack and #GroundhogDay

@Chriosania: Ghostbusters...but Stripes is a VERY close second

@starrydays17: the original Ghostbusters movie!

@BulliesFan27: Gotta be Stripes. That's the fact Jack! #RIPHaroldRamis

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Neeson Taken with being Non-Stop man of action

Fighting Irish. Actor with serious chops embraces unexpected butt-kicking roles

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Liam Neeson is an air marshal hunting an in-flight killer in the thriller Non-Stop. CONTRIBUTED

Much of the fun of 2008's Taken was watching beloved thespian Liam Neeson go all Chuck Norris in a dirty little Euro trash thriller.

In the action-adventure movie, Neeson played a former "preventer" for the U.S. government. A specialist in black ops, he was an undercover agent who contained volatile situations before they got out of control. Retired, he lived in Los Angeles near his estranged 17-year-old daughter Kim (Maggie Grace). When she is kidnapped by a child slavery ring, he has only 96 hours to use his particular set of skills to get her back. His rescue mission takes him on a wild rampage through the soft underbelly of Paris. "I'll tear down the Eiffel Tower if I have to," he says.

It's a down-and-dirty little flick, classed up somewhat by the presence of Neeson in the lead role and it became an unexpected lightening-in-a-bottle hit. It also redefined Neeson's recent career.

At an age when many actors are staring down the barrel of character parts and cameos, the 61-year-old has made an unlikely U-turn into action movies. "I was a tiny bit embarrassed by it," he says of Taken, "but then people started sending me action scripts."

His latest actioner is Non-Stop, a high-flying thriller that takes place on an international crossing from New York to London. Neeson is an air marshal who must prevent a crazed killer from murdering passengers in flight.

Taken and Taken 2 (which were essentially the same movie) worked not just because the action sequences were out of control, but because audiences had some empathy for Neeson's character as he kicked butt across Europe. It was a personal mission: He was trying to get his daughter back.

Wham! Bam!

Arguably best known for his Best Actor Oscar nomination as the charismatic but humble German businessman Oskar Schindler in Schindler's List, the Irish actor has fully embraced his new career path.

- Vanity Fair even acknowledged the twist in an article called, Wham! Bam! Thank You, Liam!

Action movies like Wrath of the Titans, The Grey and Unknown may not burnish Neeson's rep as a great actor, but when asked why he keeps making these kinds of movies, he has a solid reason: "Because they're dumb enough to offer them to me!"

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Cowell gets a taste of his own negative medicine

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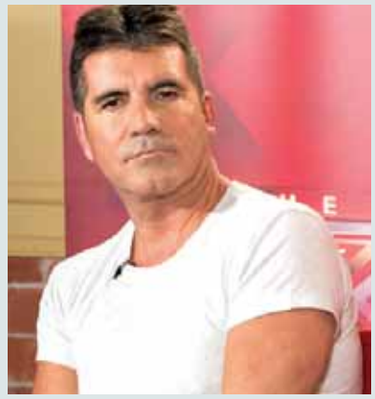
Metro World News



Simon Cowell is learning firsthand just how hard it is to parent in the public eye.

After photos surfaced of Cowell holding 10-day-old son Eric on a Miami beach on Monday, mommy bloggers around the world spit out their placenta smoothies to go on the attack over his bad parenting.

"The sun? Simon, babies' skin is like parchment paper this young.... That kid is gonna look 45 when he's a teen," mommy blog The Stir chastised.

In regards to the photos and the fact that Eric flew in a plane (most doctors recommend no air travel until at least three months old because of air pressure concerns), a commentator on another site said, "I know I was told no flying or sun exposure until they were at least six months old. I guess these two are just idiots that ignore what a Dr. tells you."

To be fair, the photos show that Cowell and co. hid out most of the time underneath a shade and Eric did don a cap. As for me, I'm more aghast at poor baby Eric getting a mouthful of Cowell's chest hair than him being on the beach.

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An island of one's own

Caribbean craving? There are plenty of destinations to choose from in the warm southern seas — here's a rundown of some of the best

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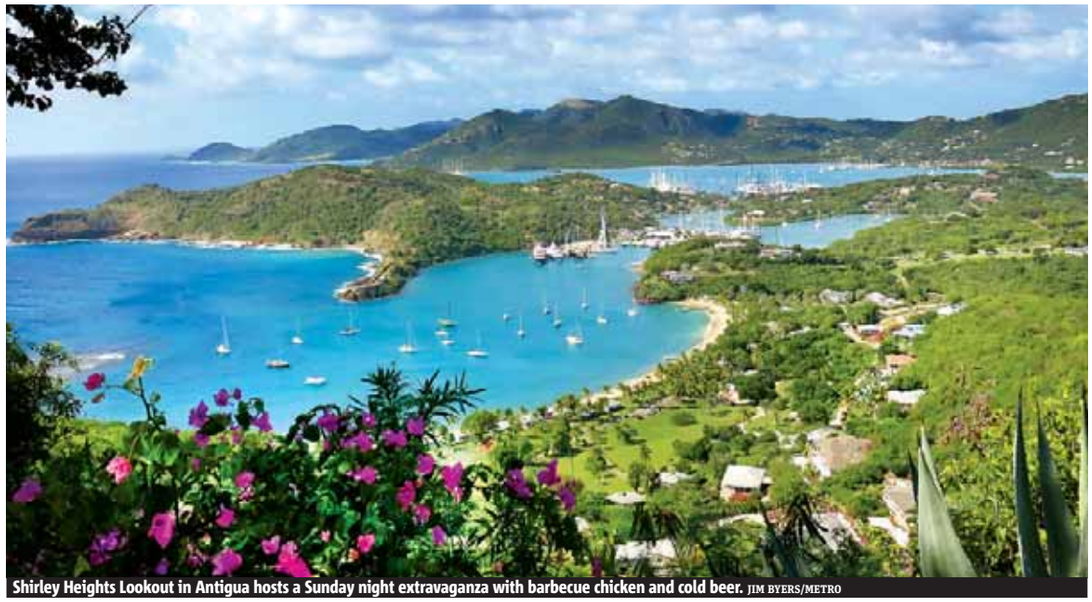

Shirley Heights Lookout in Antigua hosts a Sunday night extravaganza with barbecue chicken and cold beer. JIM BYERS/METRO

It's still high season in the Caribbean. And high time you ventured south for a bit of sun and sand. But where to go? There's a Caribbean island for every kind of traveller, and the choices can be overwhelming. So here's a look at a few personal favourites that might fit your style.

For the swimmer-diver:
There's awesome swimming to be found off the coast of Negril, Jamaica. Down at Rick's Café, you can watch hugely talented local kids do wild, somersaulting dives off rocky cliffs into impossibly blue water. You can't get quite as high as they do, but there are places near the bar where you can do a perfect cannonball — or, more likely, a face plant — yourself. Small boats out of Negril often weigh anchor just offshore, allowing patrons to swim in some of the prettiest water the world has to offer. Alternative: Check out the cool bars and the swim scene at Orient Beach on St. Martin. It's clothing optional. But, like many places, some of the folks who doff their clothes are people who really should stay perched at the bar. In long pants. And a hoodie.

For the snorkel, scuba fan:
The U.S. Virgin Islands doesn't get the same attention from Canadians as some parts of the Caribbean. But there are glorious beaches to be found and wonderful water sports. At Trunk Bay on quiet St. John, which might be the prettiest beach on the planet, you can swim near offshore islands and follow an underwater trail. There's a similar trail near Buck Island, a short boat ride off St. Croix, where you'll also find a glistening white sand beach and hardly any people. Alternative: St. Lucia's Sugar Beach, nestled between the two giant rock pillars known as the Pitons, has one of the finest reefs in the Caribbean.

For the luxury lover:
Sandy Lane on the west coast of Barbados is a stunner. There are free-form pools, private villas, one of the Caribbean's top spas and sumptuous dining on offer. This area also is home to the wonderful Green Monkey golf course. Tiger Woods married Elin Nordegren here, not that that ended so well. Alternative: Amanyara is a quiet spot on a lovely stretch of sand in the Turks and Caicos, far from the crowds of Provo. Fabulous Asian-inspired food.

For the drinker:
What, you thought we forgot about bar hopping? One of the most famous imbibing spots on the planet is at Shirley Heights Lookout in Antigua, where they do a Sunday night extravaganza with plenty of cold beer, barbecue chicken and live music. Great sunsets and parties that last long into the night. It's also a stunning spot during daylight hours, with spectacular views of the island's green hills and perfect blue waters and boats bobbing in the bays below. Possibly the best vista in the Caribbean. Alternative: Sunshine's is a colourful, seaside bar on the west coast of Nevis, part of St. Kitts and Nevis. Try the local cocktail, the Killer Bee, and look for the photo of Wayne Gretzky.

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Deal

Costa Rica yoga retreat

The Anamaya eco-lodge near Montezuma Beach, Costa Rica, is offering 10 per cent off all yoga packages for the month of April. For about $1,200, you get seven nights' accommodation, three healthy farm-to-table meals every day and the yoga package of your choosing. Connect with nature as you reconnect with yourself. Visit anamayaresort.com.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Trend

TD Aeroplan credit cards

A new survey from TD Bank says people who collect travel points fall into three groups: the strategizers, the savers and the "accidental tourists" who travel more randomly. This data is the reason behind three new Aeroplan credit cards designed to get their customers in the air more often. Visit tdaeroplan.com to get in on the action.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

How-to

Navigate ground transportation

1. Find out if there is a bus or train you can easily take to your hotel instead of a taxi. 2. Don't be afraid of the subway — it's often faster and far cheaper. 3. In countries where car rentals are outrageous, save money by booking with sites like hotwire.com. 4. Check out zipcar.com. That outlet mall on the edge of town isn't that far away at all.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Citrus, chocolate and cardamom: tasty trio

This recipe makes 12 muffins. EMILY RICHARDS

Orange Cardamom Bran Muffins. Balance the tart-sweet flavours of orange with bittersweet chocolate

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

With little chocolate surprises throughout these muffins, each bite will be different.

1. In bowl, whisk flour, bran, baking powder, soda and cardamom; set aside.

2. Cut orange into quarters. Place in food processor bowl and pulse until finely chopped, almost pureed. Scrape down sides and add milk, orange juice, brown sugar, butter, egg and vanilla and puree until combined. Fold in chocolate.

3. Pour orange mix over flour mix and stir until combined. Divide batter among 12 lined or greased muffin cups. Bake in 400 F (200 C) oven 20 minutes or until they're golden brown and firm to the touch.

FLASH FOOD

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Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) whole-wheat flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) wheat bran
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cardamom
- 1 navel orange, unpeeled and washed well
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) milk
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) orange juice
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) brown sugar
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 tsp (7 ml) vanilla
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped bittersweet chocolate, at least 60% cocoa

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Sing a song of success

Whistle while you work. Seven jams that will tune up your ability to take on your job

ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL
TalentEgg.ca

If all else fails, listen to Pink Floyd's Money and focus on the cash register noises. ISTOCK

Every now and then you may find it difficult to bring the necessary quantity of pep and verve to your workday.

Whether your sub-par performance stems from illness or indulgence, you'll probably find yourself turning to music to get back into the swing of things — after coffee, of course.

While everyone has different musical tastes, this work-related group of songs should help you get through your day as smoothly as possible.

8:00 a.m.

9 To 5 – Dolly Parton

"Tumble outta bed / And stumble to the kitchen / Pour myself a cup of ambition"

Even if the title of Dolly Parton's gold single doesn't coincide with your work schedule, this hit from 1980 will help you kick-start your day. As an added bonus, this song will instantly make any commute feel like a montage — doubly so on public transit.

9:01 a.m.

Manic Monday – The Bangles

"It's just another manic Monday / I wish it was Sunday / 'Cause that's my funday / My I don't-have-to-run-day"

You may be one of the unhappy people who dread Monday as the start of the workweek.

This pop staple, written by Prince, of all people, tells the story of someone who knows exactly how you feel. This one is best enjoyed as background music while you settle down at your desk and plan your day.

Enjoy the increasingly creative attempts to rhyme with Monday.

10:35 a.m.

Bang The Drum All Day – Todd Rundgren

"I don't want to work / I just want to bang on the drum all day"

Like the average workday, this song can be a little repetitive at times, but it's also uplifting.

In Rundgren's self-defeating hedonism, you'll find a gentle reminder that you can't have fun all the time, or fun would lose its meaning.

There's a 50 per cent chance the chorus will get stuck in your head. You've been warned.

1:22 p.m.

Working For The Weekend – Loverboy

"Everyone's looking to see if it was you / Everyone wants you to come through"

If the title doesn't jog your memory, a few seconds of listening will. This number has been in a number of advertisements, TV shows, movies and video games.

The lyrics do an excellent job reminding you that all the responsibility is on your shoulders, while reinforcing that there's always a light at the end of the tunnel. Get ready to power through the afternoon.

3:24 p.m.

Get Up Offa That Thing – James Brown

(Every other line in this song is "get up offa that thing." It's topical.)

There's a good chance your job or job hunt has you sitting in front of a computer for hours at a time, which isn't good for your health.

At the risk of being rude and overly familiar, that thing you're sitting on? Get up off of it. Seriously.

I'm not allowed to dance without warning my co-workers in advance, but even I danced while writing about this song.

4:52 p.m.

Working Man – Rush

"(Extended instrumental break with your best vocal impression of a guitar solo)"

My understanding of Rush fans is that they rarely need a reason to listen to more Rush, so I only need to sell this to the rest of you.

For your own safety, I wouldn't recommend listening to this while you're typing.

Save this electrifying number for packing up at the end of the day — don't resist the urge to drum on the stacks of paper surrounding you.

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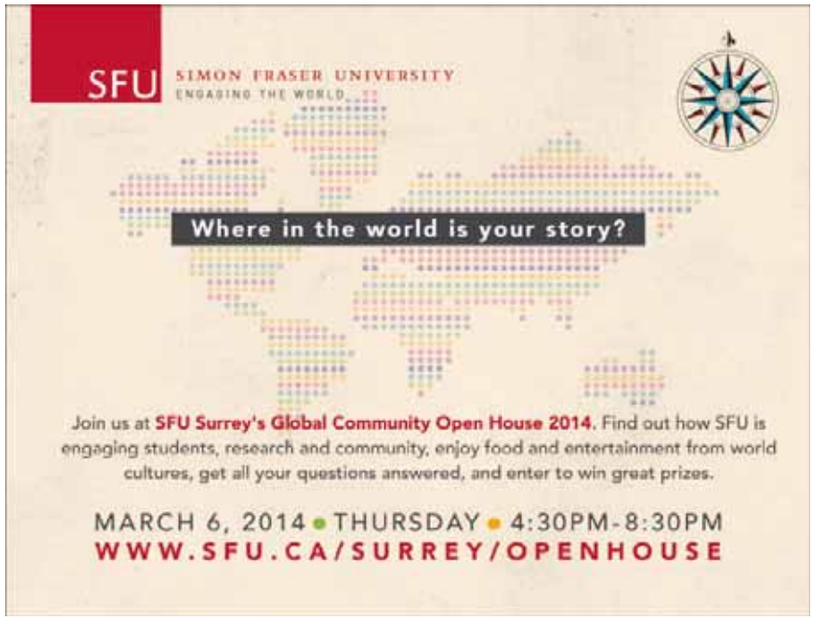
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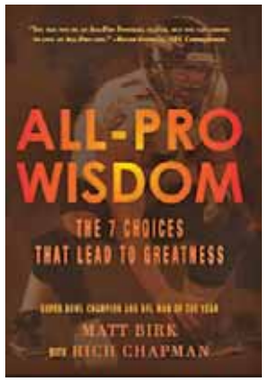
Ex-NFLer tackles life lessons in new book

Making choices. Matt Birk writes about steps to take to become the best version of yourself

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News



Former Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman Matt Birk has had his fair share of career ups and downs. He had to sit out the entire 2005 season due to a hip injury and thought his football career was over long before it actually was. But he's also a Super Bowl champ, having won in 2012 when playing for the Baltimore Ravens.

Though Birk says he never defined himself by his football career, the sport taught him a lot of important life lessons, enough to fill a book, which is why he teamed up with leading business expert Rich Chapman to write, All-Pro Wisdom: The 7 Choices That Lead To Greatness.

"Greatness isn't about achievements. It's not about winning the Super Bowl, being a CEO or any of that stuff. It's about being the greatest version of yourself," Birk tells us.

The book introduces seven qualities every person needs to reach his or her full potential, including passion, confidence, stability and focus, with tips on how to develop each quality. Birk explains how football is a great foundation for developing these traits and includes interviews with several superstar NFL players who embody them.

"One thing that surprised me right away about the NFL was how great men were in the NFL; not great players, but great men," Birk says. "We didn't tell these guys what we would be asking them for the book, and when we asked (Green Bay Packer quarterback) Aaron Rodgers about character, without batting an eyelash he said, 'I think it's about being consistent. I think it's about being a great leader.'"

Birk says his hip injury in 2005 was a good reminder to him of the danger of defining yourself by your career, a lesson he thinks everyone can learn from.

"Anyone can lose their job. Jobs are very temporary. But some people lose their job, start another career and turn around and say, 'Boy, losing my job was the best thing to ever happen to me.' And those tend to be people whose identity isn't wrapped up in what they do."

Conversely, Birk's career highlight — winning the Super Bowl — taught him another life lesson he includes in the book. "Everybody says they want to win the Super Bowl, but what are you going to do with the other 364 days of the year to make it happen? I think it's in the goal setting and dividing it into small, actionable steps so it's actually achievable."

Setting goals to achieve your dream

"Everybody says they want to win the Super Bowl, but what are you going to do with the other 364 days of the year to make it happen?"

Former NFL player Matt Birk

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Luongo in awe post-Sochi

NHL. Canucks goalie says Canadian dominance was 'unlike anything' he's seen

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Roberto Luongo has never seen anything like it before. And he's been a member of some very good hockey teams, both in the NHL and the Olympics. The Vancouver Canucks goalie marvelled at the performance Team Canada put forward in Sochi, winning the gold medal in men's hockey in dominating fashion, giving up a mere three goals in six games.

"It was amazing, to be honest with you. It's unlike anything I've ever seen, the way we competed, battled for pucks, the urgency," said Luongo, also a gold-medal winner in the 2010 Olympics.

"I'm not even talking about the offensive side. As soon as the other team had the puck, we had two guys on them. We just suffocated the other team."

Luongo, who started in the medal round and gold-medal game four years ago in Vancouver, was the backup to Carey Price this time around.

Luongo started only once for Canada, recording a shutout against Austria. But Price was given the start in the final preliminary round game and went on from there. He posted two shutouts of his own — against the U.S. in the semifinal and Sweden in the final.

Luongo's situation was similar to others on the Canadian team. P.K. Subban, the reigning Norris Trophy winner as the NHL's top defenceman, was a healthy scratch in five of six games. Dan Hamhuis, averaging more than 24 minutes in the NHL, saw very little ice time as the tournament progressed.

Star players were asked to do things they might typically not do with their NHL teams. In hockey speak, that's called buying in. That's what impressed Ken Hitchcock, an assistant coach with Canada's Olympic team and the head coach of the St. Louis Blues, the most.

"It gave us a distinct advantage over some of the other teams because some of our best players bought in to roles they don't do here," Hitchcock said Tuesday.

Canucks Roberto Luongo, left, and Dan Hamhuis, right, flank Chicago Blackhawk Duncan Keith after Team Canada's gold-medal win over Sweden on Sunday in Sochi. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Torts retraction

Coach sorry for backing Sweden

John Tortorella began his usual post-practice press conference in a different fashion, with an opening statement before answering questions.

The Vancouver Canucks head coach wanted to clear the air on comments he made over the weekend, when he essentially said he wanted Sweden to win the gold-medal game over Canada because Dan Hamhuis and Roberto Luongo weren't expected to play, and that he hoped Daniel Sedin scored a pair of goals and Alex Edler added some assists so they could return to Vancouver with more confidence.

Tortorella, who is from Boston and now lives in Point Roberts, Wash., said he did not mean to offend anyone with his comments.

"My sole intent — and still is — was worrying about the Vancouver Canucks and the players and how good they're feeling," said Tortorella on Tuesday, the day before the Canucks host the St. Louis Blues at Rogers Arena.

"I think I used some careless words in opening up that. As I said when I was hired here, it's an absolute privilege to coach in Canada and I still feel that.

"If I have insulted anybody, that certainly wasn't my intention. It was a careless use of words where I should be more cognizant. I want to clear that up. It's my privilege to be here and I hope I did not, and I think I did insult people."

Game on! Sabres get win as blizzard of questions surround Miller's future

Christian Ehrhoff scored twice, including the go-ahead goal with 44 seconds left, in lifting the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-2 win over the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday night in the NHL's first game after its Olympic break.

Ryan Miller stopped the first 20 shots he faced and 36 overall in what might be the goalie's final game in Buffalo before the trade deadline on March 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trade rumours are swirling around Sabres goalie Ryan Miller. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"There's only so many ways you can talk about off-court stuff until really the focus is on basketball and how the team is doing."

Brooklyn Nets centre Jason Collins, the first openly gay player in NBA history, says it's up to the media to decide when the story becomes more about him just being a basketball player.

NHL. Tavares doesn't regret playing in Sochi

John Tavares' opinion on NHL players participating in the Olympic Games hasn't changed even though his New York Islanders' season ended on the other side of the world while he was wearing the colours of Canada.

"It's obviously a tough situation," the injured Islanders captain said Tuesday following his return from the Sochi Games. "I certainly love playing for my country, and if I got the call again, I would."

The 23-year-old Tavares tore the MCL and meniscus in his left knee a week ago against Latvia. He missed the final two games of Canada's march to the gold medal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"With this game, there is always that risk any time you step on the ice — the possibility of injury." John Tavares

NHL. Make it or break it time for Canucks

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Ronnie Shuker
vancouver@metronews.ca

With the NHL back in business, now is a good time to see what Vancouver has to do over the home stretch. The Canucks are just one point out of a playoff spot, so the post-season is well within reach.

No so fast. Since the 2004-05 lockout, the cutoff for the post-season in the Western Conference has been on average 94 points. The Canucks need 31 in their final 22 games to hit that mark. Sounds doable, right?

Look again. To get those 31 points, Vancouver's points percentage must jump from .525 to .704 over the season's final quarter. To put that into perspective consider this: Prior to the Olympic break Pittsburgh had a points percentage of .716 and Chicago was at an even .700. So the Canucks will have to be better than the Blackhawks and almost as good as the Penguins to make the playoffs, and that's just to get in as a seventh or eighth seed. Basically, their chances of playing in the post-season fall somewhere between fat and slim.

That's not even accounting for the ugly seven-game losing streak that they have to end ASAP. And don't forget the teams to leapfrog. Minnesota, Dallas and Phoenix are each within reach, but all of them have games in hand on Vancouver, and the NHL's loser point system makes it difficult for teams on the outside to find their way back into the playoff picture.

The playoff push

"To get those 31 points, Vancouver's points percentage must jump from .525 to .704"

Hockey News columnist Ronnie Shuker describes the uphill battle facing the Canucks

In the fall, The Hockey News crunched the numbers from 1993-94 to 2012-13 to find out the success rates for making the playoffs taking into consideration where teams are in the standings at various points in the season. As we near the end of February, Vancouver sits 10th in the Western Conference. According to our numbers, only 21.1 per cent of teams in 10th place in the West, by the time March rolls around, have made the post-season.

But cheer up, Canucks fans. There's still hope. After Wednesday's match against the St. Louis Blues, 12 of Vancouver's next 13 games are against teams below them in the standings or no more than five points ahead, so they're all winnable games.

Of course, to keep your hopes up, you'll only have to ignore the schedule between March 27 and April 10, which is when the Canucks play Colorado and Anaheim twice each, and the New York Rangers (who have been the second-best team in the Eastern Conference since late October) and Los Angeles Kings once apiece.

Can @CupofLoMo perk up Seattle?

MLB. New Mariner has mellowed from his troubled Twitter past

Logan Morrison may not ever be able to escape the shadow of the Twitter persona he's created. Consider it the cost of being engaging and sometimes polarizing on social media.

What he is hoping for now, with him getting a new start in Seattle and his knee fully healthy, is a return to his 2011 form when his performance on the field was getting just as much attention as the tweets he was sending.

"I would say if the spotlight is on us, that means we're doing well. And if we're doing well, then I enjoy that, yes," Morrison said. "Do I go and search for it? No. I just am who I am. I was a military kid, so I was raised in different cities, so I had to be outgoing and know people. I think that's just kind of how it's been."

Morrison is one of the important new faces in Mariners camp and one that Seattle needs as a major contributor. He was acquired in December from Miami in exchange for reliever Carter Capps. Seattle's not yet entirely sure where to use Morrison.

If his knee is fully healthy, he can play left field, the position he spent the most time at during his tenure with the Marlins. Thus far in camp, he's been strictly a first baseman, with manager Lloyd McClendon not wanting to put too much strain on his legs early by having him take reps at both infield and outfield positions.

Sleeping giant

"When he's healthy he can do some damage."

Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon discusses the threat a healthy Logan Morrison will pose to opponents

Logan's run

When Seattle acquired Morrison from Miami in December, the assumption was that he would mostly be an outfielder who did spot duty at first base.

- **Knee problems** forced the Marlins to use Morrison mostly at first base when he finally returned to action. Seattle is trending in that direction for now.
- **The new position** was an awkward one to learn on the fly last season and Morrison is still doing drills regularly with Seattle infield coach Chris Woodward at spring training in Peoria, Ariz.

Seattle is being protective with Morrison's knee for now.

Before the knee problems started, Morrison was a rising young star during the 2011 season with the Marlins. Only 23 at the time, Morrison played in 123 games, hit 23 homers and drove in 72 runs. For a team that finished last in the NL East with just 72 wins, Morrison was one of the few reasons for the Marlins to be excited about their future.

But his Twitter antics always got the attention. The comments coming through his Twitter handle were sometimes rude, sometimes childish. He drew the ire of Mariners fans in December 2011, tweeting how he "Just heard from my boy that Prince to Seattle is a done deal" at a time the Mariners were pursuing Prince Fielder. Morrison's tweet was in reference to the musician Prince having performed in the Seattle area earlier that week.

Logan Morrison has toned down his Twitter rants since leaving Miami for the Pacific Northwest. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Since the trade, Morrison has been somewhat reserved, aside from changing his handle to @CupOfLoMo. He said the diminished activity is partly due to a new boxer pup he has at home.

McClendon has made it clear he doesn't mind any of his players being active on social media as long as it doesn't become an issue he has to deal with. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DRIVE 5

Subaru's WRX appeal

PHOTOS: WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. Who says sport cars need to have two doors and must be parked for the winter?

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Compact sedans appeal to a buyer's practical nature. But in the WRX's case, the appeal includes a lively powerplant, four-season driving competency plus sporty suspension and steering components that effectively manage the snakiest of paved and unpaved roadways.

Subaru has made a name for itself providing all-wheel-drive family transportation, but that's just part of the story. Its more competitive side includes the rear-wheel drive BRZ sports car and a couple of turbocharged WRX-branded models with rally-racing pedigrees that makes performance fans salivate.

The 2015 WRX that arrives this spring receives the all-new treatment, but in the process sheds its hatchback option. That's a bit surprising since hot hatches are seemingly all the rage, but since its major competitor, the Mitsubishi Evolution, is strictly sedan-only, Subaru appears to have concluded that a matching sedan is the way to fly.

The WRX has also jettisoned its Impreza tie-in. Henceforth the WRX and the more potent WRX STI offshoot that arrives in updated form later this year will be treated as stand-alone models. While not as eye-catching as the WRX Concept that was revealed at the 2013 New York Auto Show, the production version adopts the cleaner lines of the Impreza, especially from the windshield forward.

Overall, the WRX gains an inch between the front and rear wheels and rear-seat legroom is up by two inches. Additionally, wider-opening rear doors allow easier access to the split-folding rear seat, while trunk space has been modestly increased.

Subaru has done a great job with the WRX's interior accommodations. There's a meaty flat-bottom tilt and telescopic steering wheel that fronts dual gauge pods. They're separated by a small display screen with gear selection, oil and washer-fluid indicators. A larger dash-mounted screen is linked to the standard backup camera and displays turbocharger boost and traction and climate control info.

It's connected to a new six-speed manual transmission (a replacement for the previous five-speed gearbox), while a continuously variable unit (CVT) with paddle shifters is available. This option might surprise WRX fans, but the real surprise is how it mimics a traditional multi-speed automatic. The CVT has six built-in steps when the driver switches to either Intelligent or Sport mode from a steering-wheel-mounted switch. There are eight ratios when the Sport Sharp mode is selected.

The WRX's chassis is now 41 per cent stiffer, with front and rear springs and a front anti-roll bar that have been similarly beefed-up. Larger-diameter front disc brakes also provide greater stopping power. The standard all-wheel-drive has a torque split of 50:50, front to rear, for manual-transmission cars and a 45:55 for CVT versions. Depending on traction, up to 100 per cent of the power can be directed to either axle.

For an estimated base price of $34,500, the WRX comes with lots of gear, but moving up to the Sport Package adds a sunroof, trunk spoiler, LED headlights and an eight-way power driver's seat. The loaded WRX Sport-tech Package includes all of the above content plus keyless push-button start, touch-screen navigation and a 440-watt Harmon Kardon audio system.

The more sophisticated WRX continues on its path of refinement, backed by enough power and agility to keep all aboard amused and secure. What more could you want in a four-season sports car?

Compare

1 Ford Focus ST
Base price: $31,700

2 Honda Civic Si sedan
Base price: $27,900

2015 Subaru WRX

- **Type.** Four-door, all-wheel drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC H4 (268)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; continuously variable (CVT) opt.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $34,500

Design

The bulging front and rear fenders, recessed hood-mounted air intake and optional rear spoiler (subtle when compared to the STI's massive wing) remain in evidence, but the whole package now appears better integrated with the rest of the body.

Engine

For 2015, a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine similar to that used in the Subaru Forester produces 268 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That compares to the previous WRX's 265/244 numbers.

*Limited time 2.9% semi-monthly lease offered through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit to qualified retail customers on all new 2014 Corolla models. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception and next semi-monthly payment due approximately 15 days later and semi-monthly thereafter throughout the term. Toyota Financial Services will waive the final semi-monthly payment. Semi-monthly lease offers not open to employees of Toyota Canada, Toyota Financial Services or TMMC/TMMC Vehicle Purchase Plan. Some conditions apply. See your Toyota dealer for complete details. Example (applies across Canada except Quebec): 2014 Corolla CE 6M with a vehicle price of $16,415 (includes $1,100 Toyota Canada Lease Assist, which is deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes, and $1,520 freight/PDI) leased at 2.9% over 60 months with $0 down payment equals 120 semi-monthly payments of $89 with a cost of borrowing of $1,735.85 and a total obligation of $12,369.05. $0 security deposit and first semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, fees and taxes. 100,000 km allowance for 60 months, with ability to purchase additional kilometres at $0.05/km at time of lease inception, and a charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Dealer may lease for less. †Toyota semi-monthly lease program available on 48 month and 60 month terms. Toyota semi-monthly lease program based on 24 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 120 payments, with the final 120th payment waived by Toyota Financial Services. Competitive bi-weekly lease programs based on 26 payments per year, on a 60-month lease, equals 130 payments.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be anxious to see progress but if you take a risk too many, you could take a rather big step in the wrong direction. If you do, there is no point rebuking yourself. It happens sometimes.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You seem to be putting off something you know you will enjoy. Whatever the reason, you need to get started on it soon. Don't worry that there may be an element of risk.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Everyone at some time or another wishes they could go back and undo what they have done. With that in mind, don't be too hard on yourself if you realize you could have done more or done better.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Even the experts get it wrong and if your hunches tell you that someone in a position of influence does not know what they are talking about, then by all means ignore any advice they give you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Be careful you don't get swept and end up doing things you might later regret. It's rarely a good idea to follow the herd and someone with your enquiring mind has no need to let others think for them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Patience is a must today because if you act impulsively you will lose out. You may be frustrated that something you are working on isn't progressing as quickly as you would like but what's the rush?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It would be nice if you could solve all the world's problems, but be realistic: You can't come close. What you can do is join with those who share your views and aim to change one specific thing for the better.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
There is a danger that what you say over the next 24 hours will be taken the wrong way and used against you in the future. Misunderstandings can be costly, so spell out what you mean in plain language.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you need help, speak up. You have helped others out so many times in the past that they will go out of their way to help you in return, but they can't do that unless they know you are hurting.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You don't mind taking chances but with Jupiter in your opposite sign at odds with Uranus, planet of the unexpected. Today, it might be better to play safe. There is no such thing as a sure thing.

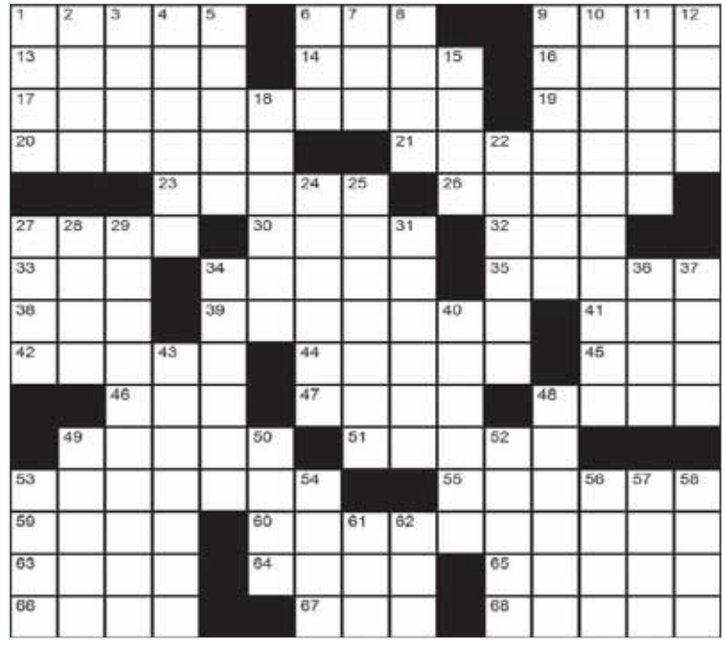
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You want to do something for people who are less well off than you. That's noble but don't throw money at the first good cause that comes along. Get involved in a project that will make a lasting difference.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
With Jupiter and Uranus at odds today, any decision you make is likely to have unforeseen consequences. Leave thing alone for the next 24 hours. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

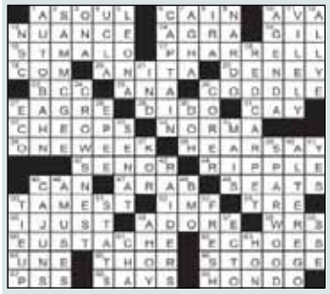
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Vancouver stadium, BC __
6. Conrad __ (Actor on Bravo's set-in-Montreal police drama "19-2")
9. Nunavut: King William Island settlement, __ Haven
13. U2's drummer
14. Verdi opera
16. 'Exfol' ending
17. Best Picture winner directed by Clint Eastwood
19. X-__ knife
20. Add earth again
21. Have, as pretzels: 2 wds.
23. Type of religious belief
26. Declares
27. Zigs pals
30. Catriona Le May __
32. US docs' org.
33. Bread's "Baby __-_ Want You"
34. Sierra __
35. "Royals" singer
38. __'easter
39. Chrysler Building's style: 2 wds.
41. Fresh
42. Certain chamber
44. __ __ stock (Was available)
45. Ms. Gabor
46. Gladiator's 151
47. European erupter
48. Press
49. West or East, in Canada
51. Footnote abbr. meaning 'and the following' in Latin: 2 wds.
53. Extinct culture of Newfoundland
55. "Downtown" singer Ms. Clark
59. Dog food brand
60. Adhesive kind: 2 wds.
63. Jazzy Ms. Laine
64. "Who knows?" = "Qui __?" en francais
65. "_ __ a Message" by INXS
66. 'Life Is Peachy' band
67. Bigger sizes, e.g.
68. __ humains (Human beings, in French)

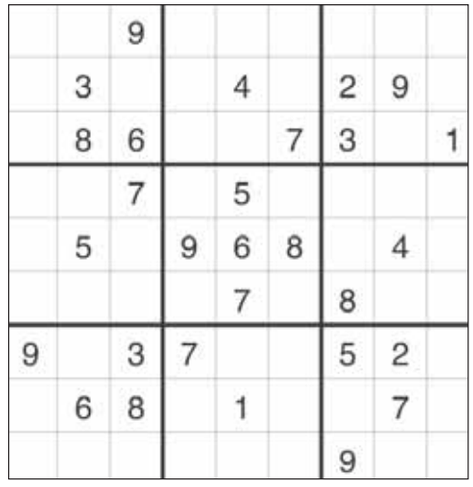
Down
1. Not singular [abbr.]
2. Street for Lois?
3. Pound sounds
4. 2014 Best Animated Feature nominee, "The __"
5. Hawk's habitation, variantly
6. Gambling game, __ Gow
7. Ms. Ullmann
8. Citrus coolers
9. Opera composer Mr. Puccini
10. Movie bigwig (b.1892 - d.1978) from London, ON who formed a still-existing-today movie studio with his brothers: 2 wds.
11. Mr. Preminger's 12. "__ Flux" (2005)
15. Ms. Faris
18. Sailplane
22. Newfoundland: __ Peninsula
24. Comfort
25. Authorization
27. Multivitamin mineral
28. Love: Spanish
29. "High Noon" (1952) star who won Best Actor: 2 wds.
31. "You __ bother."
34. On the tardy side
36. "Whip It" band
37. Mr. McGregor
40. The Company operative: acr. + wd.
43. Oliver Stone's Best Director war movie
48. Smartness meas.: 2 wds.
49. Stringed instrument
50. Wed's predecessor
52. Spooky
53. Not front
54. 2001 planetary Kevin Spacey flick
56. Addict
57. Queue
58. Ets equivalents
61. Lubricate
62. Cadillac's lettered sedan

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

6	4	8	7	9	2	5	3	1
1	5	3	6	8	4	7	9	2
9	2	7	1	5	3	6	8	4
5	1	4	8	3	7	2	6	9
3	6	9	2	4	5	8	1	7
7	8	2	9	6	1	3	4	5
8	9	5	4	7	6	1	2	3
4	3	1	5	2	8	9	7	6
2	7	6	3	1	9	4	5	8

Today
5°/3°
Variable

Thursday
8°/2°
Partly cloudy

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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